MAMMALOGY.—Akodon chacoensis, *a new cricetine rodent from Argentina.*[1] H. HAROLD SHAMEL, U. S. National Museum. (Communicated by JOHN B. REESIDE, JR.)

A new cricetine rodent has been found in a collection of mammals from Argentina that was made in 1920 by Dr. Alexander Wetmore. This specimen was discovered at the same time as *Marmosa formosa,* which I described in March, 1930, but until it could be compared with specimens in the British Museum I hesitated to publish on it. It has since been compared with specimens in the British Museum by Dr. W. H. Osgood, and this comparison bears out my original conclusion.

Akodon chacoensis sp. nov.

Figs. 1, 2.

Type.—Adult male, skin and skull, No. 236239, collected in Las Palmas, Chaco, Argentina, by Dr. A. Wetmore, June 20, 1920.

Diagnosis.—In its external measurements it is practically the same size as *Akodon arenicola* from Argentina, but considerably darker in color. Enamel folds, on the inner side of the tooth row, somewhat flattened and folded distinctly backward; reentrant angles closed; without groove on anterior surface of m^1 or inner surface of m^3.

Skull.—The skull, when compared with that of *Akodon arenicola,* is characterized by the large size of the brain case in proportion to the rather weak short rostrum. The anterior edge of the zygomatic plate is perfectly straight and projects forward scarcely at all. The drop downward of the zygoma from the plate is very abrupt, so much so, that the arch formed by the infraorbital plate and the inferior border of the zygoma is almost completely hidden when the skull is viewed from the side. The drop of the zygoma is so abrupt downward that there is rather a well defined angle where it joins the zygomatic plate. The lowest dip of the zygomatic arch is in its center, while in other species it is found at the posterior curve. The rostrum is short. The distance from the anterior edge of zygomatic plate to anterior surface of incisor, 4.6 mm. The lateral depressions of the basioccipital are deep and are scooped out abruptly back of the basal suture. The palate, which extends well behind m^3, is broad at posterior end of the tooth row (4.4 mm.) and not waist-like. Six small pits in the palate, three on each side, but none farther back than a line joining the centers of m^3. The palatal foramen extends from the middle of first molar until it almost touches the incisors.

Teeth.—The enamel folds of the upper molars are more or less flat, and are folded distinctly backward; the reentrant angle on the inner side of the tooth row is directed forward and closed. In other forms of *Akodon* the enamel folds are rounded, not folded backward, and the reentrant angle is open. On the outer side of the tooth row the reentrant angle is directed backward, except the first reentrant angle of m^2 which points straight inward. The teeth are well

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worn; m^1 has three cusps on the outer edge with a secondary one between the second and third, and three on the inner side; m^2 has four cusps on its outer edge, one and three being secondary, two on the inner edge. The anterior surface of m^1 and the inner surface of m^2 are smooth. m^2 is a round peg-like tooth with two well defined enamel islands. The incisors are curved more abruptly inward toward the throat than any other species examined, and according to Thomas are what would be called opisthodont.

Color.—The general color is olivaceous with some buff about the eyes and sides of head and along the sides of the body; but the back is very dark, almost black from the shoulders down to the base of the tail. The underparts are whitish, with a very slight buffish tinge; hairs basally dark slate both above and below. The feet appear to be dark brown clothed in short white hair, but this is because the hairs which cover them are brown at the base and tipped with white. The digits are white.

Measurements.—Type: total length, 160 mm.; tail, 66 mm.; hind foot, 22.5 mm.; greatest length of skull, 25.0 mm.; condylobasal length, 22.4 mm.; zygomatic breadth, 12.2 mm.; interorbital breadth, 4.5 mm.; length of nasals, 8.4 mm.; breadth of braincase, 12.6 mm.; diastema, 5.5 mm.; maxillary tooth row, 4.0 mm.; mandibular tooth row, 4.0 mm.; length of mandible, 14.6 mm.

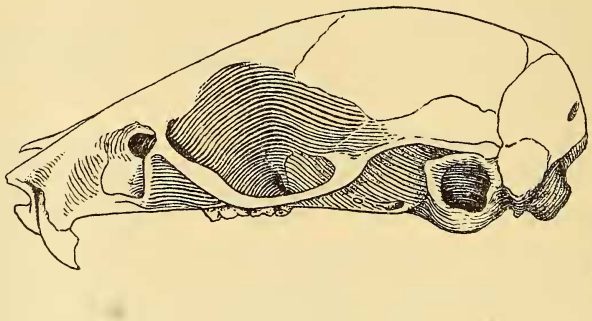

Fig. 1. *Akodon chacoensis,* lateral view of skull × 3. U. S. N. M. No. 236239.

I have compared this specimen with the following species of *Akodon: arenicola, arviculoides, bogotensis, boliviensis, canescens, cursor, lenguarum, mollis, neocenus, pulcherimus, surdus, tolimae.* In only one species of *Akodon* was the brain case any wider and that was in *A. lenguarum* (13.2 mm. as against 12.6 mm.), and *A. lenguarum* is a much larger animal. In all other species the brain case is smaller. Some of the differences between the specimen from Chaco and other species of *Akodon* may be summarized as follows:

1. Much larger brain case in proportion to length of rostrum.
2. Palatal foramen extends nearer the incisors.
3. Palate extends farther behind m^2.
4. Palate behind m^2 not waist-like.
5. Zygomatic plate has a well defined angle.
6. Zygoma drops much lower, particularly anteriorly.

7. Enamel folds on inside of tooth row folded backward on one another like window shutters.

8. Incisors curve inward more abruptly toward the throat.

9. Reentrant angles closed.

This specimen was taken to the British Museum by Dr. W. H. Osgood and compared with South American specimens there. Dr. Osgood had the following to say:

There is nothing like this in the British Museum. The species is doubtless new and the genus is uncertain. . . .

This may be a new genus, but until more than one specimen can be examined, it would not help much to name it. The relationships of those already named are very obscure and Thomas has reversed himself on them several times. There are a lot of species which won't fit exactly into any of the groups he has recognized.

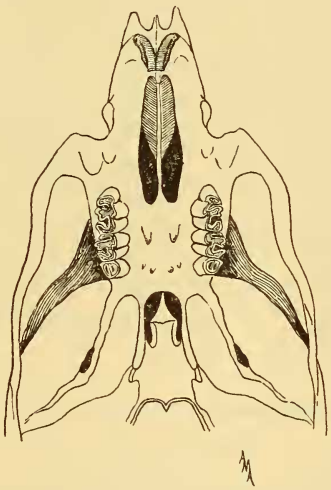

Fig. 2. *Akodon chacoensis*, palatal view of skull × 3. U. S. N. M. No. 236239.

Dr. A. Wetmore at the time he collected this specimen made the following note:

Number 1059 was secured in a small patch of marsh grass, about ten feet square, in an open savannah. The white toes with square cut demarcation behind were especially noticeable. This animal had a skin as tender as a rabbit's, and thus differed from any other mouse that I have handled.

It is doubtless best, under the present condition of uncertainty with respect to some of the South American genera, to make this only a new species. However, the characters of the enamel folds, without considering other peculiarities, are so distinctive that there is no doubt in my mind that when other specimens are taken they will show that this animal represents a new genus.